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State of Utah
Department of Workforce Services



Western Region
Jan Thompson, Regional Director
40 South 200 East • St. George, UT
(435) 688-3100

EMPLOYER *Update*



Cedar City Employment Center

Remodeled and ready to serve



The remodeled and expanded Employment Center in Cedar City

The Department of Workforce Service's (DWS) Cedar City Employment Center has been remodeled and a new expansion has been added to the east side. The 7,000 square-foot addition, which houses 36 DWS employees, also includes two new conference rooms, a new training room with 12 individual computer stations, and five interview rooms for use by employers.

The newly remodeled Job Connection area provides space for 20 public computer stations. Public computers are used by customers to search for jobs, create resumes, explore careers, perform self assessments of goals, obtain labor market information and assist in other job seeker functions. In addition, the center administers a wide variety of skill

tests such as typing, spelling, and proficiency testing for software programs such as Microsoft WORD and EXCEL.

A ribbon cutting ceremony, held on June 27, 2002, was well attended by dignitaries from Iron County. The ribbon cutting was performed by Jan Thompson, Western Region Director for DWS and Curtis Johnson, Employment Center Manager along with select dignitaries.

The Cedar City Employment Center, located at 176 East 200 North, invites everyone to come see the new and improved center. We welcome the opportunity to assist you in meeting your employment needs.

“Heads Up!” for Employers from UI Contributions

Compared to last quarter, twice as many employers chose to file their UI wage and tax reports on the Internet. The quarter ending June 30 was only the second quarter for which on-line filing was available. Of those who used the Internet, about one third elected the to pay taxes on-line, using the electronic funds transfer (EFT) option.

Another exciting development is underway ~the new EWAGE system. Soon, an *Employer Advisor* from UI Contributions will announce availability of EWAGE. The new system will be provided free to Utah employers. EWAGE software will interface with an employer's own existing payroll system to create a UI system that is essentially free-standing on the employer's own computer. The system will prepare reports and maintain historical UI records; it will track employee wages reported to determine when the required taxable wage base has been exceeded. When desired, information may be uploaded to the Internet UI tax Web site where the employer will be automatically recognized and will be able take full advantage of Internet support available on-line.

DWS has a role in the Governor's 1000-Day Economic Plan

Part of the Governor's vision for economic prosperity is that quality jobs are available statewide.

There are three strategies to realize this vision:

- *Invest in people*
- *Develop Utah as a center for technology investment, employment, and entrepreneurship*
- *Enhance life quality*

An agile, innovative, and responsive workforce development system is a crucial component of this vision. Economic prosperity (of quality jobs available statewide) requires a united effort of education, economic development, and workforce services in order to equip Utah's workforce with higher skills and to connect Utah companies with qualified workers.

“As a department, we've accomplished several milestones that compliment the plan,” say the department's Executive Director Raylene Ireland. “We will continue to support the plan by providing services that will help develop our state as a center for technology investment, employment and entrepreneurship.”

UI Extended Benefits Claims Winding Down

By July, the proportion of claimants filing for extended unemployment benefits under the Temporary Economic Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) program had decreased to 20% of total initial claims, reported Unemployment Insurance (UI) Director James Finch. When the program began in March 2002, 36% of all “new” filers were TEUC claimants.

The federally funded TEUC program was part of the President's Economic Stimulus Package and provide 13 weeks of additional payments to claimants who have previously exhausted regular Utah benefits. The week ending December 28, 2002 marks the end of the special benefits which were authorized in the wake of September 11, 2001 events. Including TEUC total, new unemployment claims this year are up 39.6% over last year.

Breakfast With Economist Series Continues Statewide

Utah business professionals will have an opportunity to hear the latest economic news from a Department of Workforce Services' (DWS) Economist. The department assigns an economist to each region of the state to focus on the details of Utah's diverse and unique economy.

The breakfast seminars are free, and are part of a series of updates on the local and national economy. Check your local newspaper for the next seminar in your area.

Congratulations!

The department's Workforce Information Division was recently recognized by the **Regional Financial Review**, as having the highest accuracy of all states for the past seven years.

Workforce Information Thanks Employers

The Department of Workforce Services' (DWS) Workforce Information Division completed its Annual Refiling Survey for Covered Employment and Wages (CEW) on August 15, 2002. The annual survey helps to ensure the accuracy of the industry classifications upon which the unemployment tax structure rests. Industry classifications are assigned at the time a business registers with DWS. The CEW verifies the physical location and business activity of a portion of employers each year.

This year, 13,375 employers completed the survey for an 86% establishment response rate. The survey also captured information for over 90% of the employees covered by the survey. "Utah actually exceeded the federally required standards of 75% participation for each area in March," said Workforce Information Director Ron Ahlstrom. "We thank Utah employers for their excellent participation in this survey, which gives the information needed for proper UI taxation." Workforce Information at DWS is the leading source for state and local economic information in Utah. Ahlstrom added, "It is clear that Utah employers understand the information they provide to us is critical to identifying economic trends and improving workforce programs."

KUDOS

*Letter to **Connie Carter (BSC)** and **Angie Kirsling (Midvale EC)***

*"The staff at **Remedy** would like to tell you how very much we appreciate your efforts on our behalf and in support of eBay, Inc. The level of service we receive is superb including the recruiting, assistance in screening, and follow up. The amount of chaos a Remedy/eBay job fair creates in your facility is massive, and you and your staff handle it so professionally and calmly. We couldn't recruit, screen and place the required number of candidates for eBay without your assistance and support. You are truly a superior resource for us and all the employers you serve. Thanks for all you do for us."*

**Marylee Krebs Hale,
VP Remedy Intelligent
Staffing:**

"Just wanted to let you folks know how helpful it is to have all of this information on the Web. We are writing an Early Head Start grant for Beaver, Iron and Millard Counties and between your pages and links to other information, we have been able to much of it though your web site."

**Virginia B. Higbee
Director
SUU Head Start**

Utah Department of Workforce Services
Executive Director's Office
P.O. Box 143100
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-3100

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Western Region

3rd Annual Millard County Trade Show

The 3rd Annual Millard County Business Trade Show was held in conjunction with the Millard County Fair August 9th and 10th. 36 local businesses set up display booths at the fair park for all to taste, try or sample. Thanks to everyone for helping make this years' show a success. Entertainment was provided by local talent on a portable stage provided by Delta Sports Center. A big thanks goes to Delta Egg Farm for donating fans to help make the warm temperature bearable. And thanks to the citizens of Millard County who came out to support the show. We hope to see you again next year.

Richfield EC Forms "Life Savers" Team

On September 6 and 7, the Richfield Employment Center participated in its first *Cancer Relay For Life*, with a 13 member team dubbed the "Life Savers." During the relay, the team had at least one member walking at all times during a 24 hour period. While each member worked hard to raise donations in an effort to take home the "walking" trophy, they were particularly motivated because all monies from this event were earmarked for the local area. Results for the event were unavailable at press time.

Western Region Business Consultants

Beaver	Connie Fails	(435) 438-5498
Cedar City	Bob Cranford	(435) 865-6548
Delta	Linda Lundberg	(435) 864-3860
Fillmore	Wendell Robison	(435) 743-5304
Junction	Janet Butterfield	(435) 577-2443
Kanab	David Nash	(435) 644-8910
Loa	Becky Pace	(435) 836-2406
Manti	Bruce Barton	(435) 835-0738
Nephi	Carol Lange	(435) 623-1927
Panguitch	Jolene Smith	(435) 676-8896
Richfield	Lela King	(435) 893-0016
St. George	Kimberly Johnson	(435) 986-3541

